

FEB 20 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH AND FUND
A VETERAN WOMEN SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION WITHIN THE
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Legislature requested the Hawaii
2 Office of Veterans' Services and the United States Department of
3 Veterans Affairs to develop comprehensive programs and services
4 to address the needs of female active duty military members and
5 veterans; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services
8 established the Hawaii military women's task force to study the
9 needs of women veterans and develop programs to:
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11 (1) Improve the lives of women who have served or are
12 currently serving in the military;
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14 (2) Identify and address the unique needs of women
15 veterans; and
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17 (3) Harness the power of women to influence change by
18 empowering women veterans through education and
19 opportunities to improve and increase resilience; and
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21 WHEREAS, the task force determined that women in the
22 military face multiple, inter-related, and complex problems,
23 which include:
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25 (1) A high rate of military sexual trauma;
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27 (2) Inadequate health care after reentry into the civilian
28 life;
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30 (3) High rates of post-traumatic stress syndrome;
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32 (4) Homelessness; and



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1 (5) Unemployment; and

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3 WHEREAS, current estimates show that there are between
4 9,502 and 11,744 women veterans who reside in Hawaii; and

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6 WHEREAS, women in the National Guard or reserves for all
7 military branches have been activated in pursuit of the United
8 States' interest in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, and
9 other foreign nations; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services is the single
12 office responsible for the welfare of all veterans and their
13 dependents within the State; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services provides veterans
16 and their family members with assistance in filing claims with
17 the Department of Veterans Affairs and serves as a link for
18 programs and services offered by federal and state agencies; and

19
20 WHEREAS, a veteran women services coordinator is needed
21 within the Office of Veterans' Services to aid female active
22 duty service members and veterans with their specific needs and
23 issues; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
27 that the Office of Veterans' Services is requested to establish
28 and fund a veteran women services coordinator position; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans'
31 Services is requested to appoint as the veteran women services
32 coordinator a veteran or a present member or discharged member
33 of the Hawaii Air or Army National Guard; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veteran women services
36 coordinator, among other duties and responsibilities, is
37 requested to:

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39 (1) Gather and distribute information about services
40 available to women military members and veterans;



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- 1 (2) Educate counselors within the Office of Veterans'
2 Services of the services provided to women veterans;
3 and
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5 (3) Attend national conferences and participate in
6 veterans services workshops to ensure that women
7 veterans have a knowledgeable contact person who is
8 able to direct women veterans to appropriate
9 resources; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant General,
13 Director of the Office of Veterans' Services, and Chairperson of
14 the Policy Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.
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OFFERED BY:

Ronald J. Bell
James Overendo R.
David Paul
Lorraine G. Inouye
Michelle
Michelle L. Adams
Jill
Elizabeth Ann Cleveland

